REMARKS

The foregoing Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed June 29, 2005 for the above-referenced patent application. In that Office Action, claims 1,5,7,11-14,18,20 and 24-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C.§103(a) as being obvious over Dobbek et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,185,058) in view of Hetzler et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,768,044). However, claims 2-4,6,8-10,15-17,19 and 21-23 were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By the present Amendment, independent claim 1 has been rewritten to include the limitations of allowable dependent claim 2. Claims 3 and 4 have been amended to change their dependency from cancelled claim 2 to rewritten claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is in condition for allowance, as are claims 3-13 dependent thereon.

Similarly, independent claim 14 has been rewritten to include the limitations of allowable dependent claim 15. Claims 16 and 17 have been amended to change dependency from cancelled claim 15 to rewritten claim 14. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 14 is in condition for allowance, as are claims 16-26 dependent thereon.

Application No. 10/685,653 Attorney's Docket No. <u>HSJ920030010US1</u> Page 11

Conclusion

For the reasons presented above, claims 1, 3-14 and 16-26 are believed to be in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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